

Airsounds (and Spectrum)

andal, information, news, comments, views, letters, ideas, locati

CAROLINE - FACT-OR-FICTION?

Unfortunately, the biggest and best batch of Caroline News for some time now just missed the printing deadline for the last A & S by a few days! However, better late than never, and for those who don't read FRS NEWS, BULLETIN, or ALGEMEEN DAGBLAD, here it is! Thanks to Jan for doing the translation. (As it was originally so long, we've had to cut it down a bit.)

"Completely equipped with studios, transmitters and a 90m tall aerial mast - ready for broadcasting - the mv IMAGINE, the new ship of the legendary radio pirate Caroline, lies in a Spanish harbour due to financial, juridical and organizational problems. The former Scottish vessel, ROSS REVENGE, built in 1960 has been chained up for security in a legal battle between dubious money lenders and the Caroline organization. Both claim ownership, and the money lenders think they have done enough so far, having paid approx. £400 000.

"The evil mind behind all the rumours of starting dates, flags, registrations, tender ships, transmitters, tests, etc, is a Britisher called Vincent Monsey. Monsey, who later called himself Paul Collins, enjoyed the entire confidence at first of Ronan O'Rahilly, Caroline's original manager. Apart from the listeners waiting for the station, Wolfman Jack was another victim - he recorded programmes for three months in his private studio; they still have to be broadcast. Johnny Walker was to become programme manager - returning from an American local station he had to get a job as a taxi driver because there was no work for him. Tom Hardy, Steve Gordon, Stephen Bishop and Mike Stephens were wiser, and stayed with Sunshine Radio for the time being.

"Monsey had big plans for a station with an American format. He contacted Major Market Radio and started to pull in advertising. a £5M turnover and a 50KW transmitter were mentioned to pull in financiers. The first delay announced was in April 1981. A Dutch magazine, Free Wave, sent a telex asking for an explanation. Collins' answer was that the aerial mast was giving balance problems. On announcement of a second delay, the reason given was that the organization were awaiting the outcome of the Paradijs case. In the meantime, superb portfolios were being distributed without pictures of the ship, mentioning DJs Johnny Jason, Mike Stevens, Adrian Horsman, Rockin' Robin, Nick Patterson, Vincenta, Tom Anderson, Pat Sharp, David Simmons, Chris Ryan, Mitch Parker, and of course, Walker and Jack. "You have to take his activities with a pinch of salt," warned O'Rahilly, but he still left Collins to do as he wished. Then started the bigger rumours. The IMAGINE had been sunk in the Bermuda triangle whilst crossing over from America (where it never was in the first place). Real reasons for the delay soon became clear. Transmitters had not been ordered from Continental Electronics after all, but were being bought seperately from several local US stations. In September 1981 all equipment was shipped to the Netherlands, but due to wrongly filled in customs forms, everything was held for three months. At the end of 1981, Peter Chicago started to fit the ship without any assistance.

"Radio Life was real - it was to have been provided by All Ham Productions and broadcast over a second transmitter on the IMAGINE. However, it was the undoing of Monsey. O'Rahilly plainly and simply ditched him. Monsey now plans stations in the Carribean and South America. O'Rahilly is now looking for new backers, and when he has the capital, Caroline

will return. 'When Caroline returns it will be a Saturday. The first sound will be that of a beating heart to prove that Caroline is still alive. It will start early in the morning very weak, but the volume will increase until 12 o'clock when Wolfman Jack will present the first show.'

"But for the time being, Radio Caroline lies in a Spanish harbour with heart failure."

Edited by AD's Radio & TV staff, printed 27.8.82, translated by Jan and adapted for A & S by chopping all the important bits out.

AIRSOUNDS & SPECTRUM issue 9 November 1982 Stuart Hardy/Steve West _ _ _

A & S costs 5p plus s&e in the UK, 1 IRC in Europe and 2 IRCs elsewhere. Subs are £2.85 UK, £3.25/15 IRCs Europe and £4.00/28 IRCs International. Cheques payable to Stuart Hardy, not AIRSOUNDS & SPECTRUM (they are hard for us to cash!).

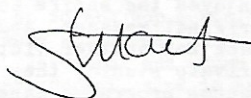
Yes, yes, yes! A & S is back after a month of non-production. This was entirely avoidable, and caused by two lazy editors, the "speedy" service of the GPO and holidays resulting in lack of printing facilities. Don't worry though, all you new readers, we do usually come out once a month!

Envisage the scene, if you will. The Free Radio magazine battlefield is barren. All magazines but two have been closed down by the guns of girlfriends, money or jobs in Ireland (FBM, FRJ, FRW, etc are no more) - A & S and FRS NEWS are left. What will happen?

Actually, it's quite simple, and quite boring really! A & S combines with FRS NEWS to produce AIRSPEC NEWS (terrible name, but is Bev satisfied?). The first issue of this ultra-informative magazine will appear in January - FRS's last issue will be out sometime in November, and the last A & S should hopefully be out at the beginning of December. Lack of space means that we can't give too many details now, so write in and ask us anything you want, about anything apart from subs (these are proving a little difficult at the moment, but we will release details later).

STUART HARDY
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ENGLAND

A & S = Free Radio at its best!



ADVERTISE: any adverts sent in over the last few months will be kept on file and printed either next month or in ASN - we just haven't got space this time!



Something will be happening to the QSO section as from January; we don't know what, but something will happen! Now to the news. Radio Bluebird have been pretty active lately. Their mailing address is different to that given in A & S before - this one was for the MW station of the same name - and it's really Babsloot 88, Boskoop, NL. This is roughly correct anyway, we'll check the spelling for next time! Radio Internationaal were heard on 6245 QSOing with Bluebird on Oct 3. No address. Radio Nord (Germany) was heard talking to Radio City (Holland) on Oct 2 at about 1510. They used 6250 and 6275 respectively. Both played some music tracks before signing off. Abbey Radio QSLed with a nice green card c/o SPECTRUM. They want tapes of their August 22 transmissions. Radio Vomit who come from somewhere in Europe (Germany/Holland) were heard in QSO with Radio WBI (see SW news) on October 31. Radio Pluto was active on Echo Charlie on September 19.

Echo Charlie logs from myself and Kevin Lewis: X1, A2, TRG, WS19, FR14, WB12, RG (Rubber Grommit's new name?), Eagle Radio, RO4 (AM from Antwerp with 30W!), HO7 (Holland), CC6, MM1, TX, LM1, YO62, WX, IB41, SC7, WD4, GA2, UK711B, 1B369, IK9, WF22, etc!

MJHO is a station which has been queried by one reader of this section. It is a military station, which probably unofficially uses the EC band (the ministry of Defence are allotted frequencies, but I would think that in reality they can use any SW freq.), so yes, it is military, and yes, it is technically illegal!

If you run a QSO station, why not write in to us? Come on, don't be shy, we need people like you to make this column more readable!!!

48m = 6.2MHz

"Echo Charlie" = 6.5MHz

41m = 7.3MHz



News for a small part of September and all of October follows. Addresses are - FRS: Postbus 41, 7700 AA Dedemsvaart, Netherlands - c/o SPECTRUM: 21 Victoria Road, Salisbury, Wilts, SP1 3NF - FBM: PO Box 319, Edenbridge, Kent, TN8 6QE. Please note; the FBM have now closed and all magazine money has been refunded, but their mailing address service will stay open.

++ World Music Radio: back via Radio Milano. Programmes have been heard at various times and various frequencies - try 6212, 6218, 6219, 6220, 6221 and 6230. The Italian side of the station also does occasional programmes, and anyone hearing "101 Radio" jingles on Sept 12 now knows who it was. WMR's correct address is Postbus 4078, Amsterdam, Netherlands, and they will QSL. Milano can be reached at Radio Milano, Via Lottatelli, Milano, Italy.

++ Radio One: another Italian station apparently heard lately. They use a frequency between 6220 and 6230, and also the same FM frequency, tho' they are a different station! Milano gives a better signal. Radio 1, CP 888, Florence, Italy.

++ German Music Radio: proving that support is still high in Germany, GMR were "back" on 6240 on October 10 after a test on Sept 12 (with a phone number). DJs on "The New GMR" are Steve Night, Daniel Kay, Mike Ross plus two Finnish presenters whose names hit me like a verbal bullet (can anyone spell them?). GMR will probably appear every 2nd Sunday. FRS address.

++ Radio Telstar/Suirside Radio: formerly called ABC International before they went over to Eire, RT have been relaying Suirside again, as well as putting out tape loops advertising airtime "for as little as £10 per hour" - great value I suppose, but a 24432 SINPO won't help to bring in replies! 7 Bolton Street, Waterford, Eire will get to them.

++ Anchor Radio: after a fairly successful start with regular 2nd Sunday transmissions on 6245 (with a professional format) Anchor now seem set to close down. This is due to a package of their mail - containing Magnas' real name - being opened by the GPO and then returned to their Box number. Whether they will continue is unknown at the moment, but it is probably unlikely (tho' don't take my word for it - he may have changed his mind by now). The station has been promising QSLs, and if they do continue, these will be sent out, with information sheets as well. PO Box 35, Wellington, Telford, Salop.

++ Radio 49: a wierd station, to say the least. They tested their "new freq." of 6200 on Sept. 26, with a new address, 55 Richmond Way, Gillingham, Kent. They were next heard on October 17 with their "Final Hour" asking people to write to 3 Rosewarne Cotts, Rosewarne Downs, Cambourne, saying that if they received enough letters they would be back (which rather defeats the object of having a final hour!). Apparently, Steve Most is buying a new rig off John Dawson (SLR ultra-hi-fi rigs plc) for £34.90, and he will use the ever so popular frequencies of 6021.11, 6745, 6860.5 or 7529.5....! He wants DJ tapes from anyone interested. What has happened to the days when R49 was a nice conventional station??? Remember that we told you about Radio Freebird, another Most-type venture a few months ago? It was supposed to fill in for 49 during a short absence. It appeared on 11480 (via Radio Nolan????!! True!) from 1000 to 1100 on Saturday Oct 23! Using not c/o SPECTRUM but the 3 Rosewarne Cotts address!!!

++ Radio Apollo: the Apollo Radio Network appeared on 7325 on Sept 12 with a strong but slightly overmod. signal with The Voice of the Freedom Fighters For the Opressed Masses of Number 42 with Special Fried Lice (FBM address), Radio Freedom (more info soon), ApolloDX, Radio Avalanche (more info soon) and Subway Sounds (please contact c/o Apollo for now. May use 21 Vic. Rd soon). Apollo Beautiful Music went out on Oct 24 after people said they weren't playing enough music, and relays from Freedom and Radio Dragonfly followed. Apollo's address is c/o FBM. Dave Scott says that there may be another relay net soon as he has had enquiries from Radio Typhoon and Radio Rainbow. Tests to the States are imminent (I hope!). I've never seen so many station names under one heading!

++ Radio Freedom: normally on in New Zealand, the Triple F Music Show was heard in the Apollo relay net, as well as after the Apollo Beautiful Music broadcast. They have a new address of PO Box 1437, Hastings, NZ.

++ Radio Avalanche: comprising of BRI's Phil Abbot and "one or two people who haven't yet been told", RAI hope to be back on 7340 on November 14 from 0930 via another relay. The name of this station is to be kept secret till after the broadcast, but checking with Dave Scott proves that it's not him! They hope to have a full range of programmes, including international shows and an American relay, "if the tapes arrive". After good response to their first programme via Apollo, Avalanche had hoped to have their own transmitter built by Christmas, but it now seems that these plans were slightly ambitious, and although the plans haven't been shelved, they have been set back slightly. They are contactable c/o SPECTRUM.

++ Radio Dragonfly: the programme heard on October 31 was not direct from Dragonfly, but was a relay of an old tape - one of the unsuccessful ones - made in the days when Dragonfly did wierd things with 20W, resulting in no SINPOs whatsoever! 147 Mackie Ave, Brighton, Sussex is their address.

++ Trans-Continental Radio: a new station to SW, they made their first proper broadcast on October 3 on 6264 after a series of unsuccessful tests into a light bulb. However, with no signal appearing here on that frequency, or on 6555, which was also tested that morning, TCR plan major adjustments to their transmitter (they're re-building it). We publicised them a few months ago in AIRSOUNDS under the name of Radio Omega, etc. c/o SPECTRUM.

++ Radio Krypton: now back on 6267 in the AM mode. Various presenters can be heard every week from 1100 to 1300. Erratic repliers, but we've dwelt on that enough in past issues! 134 Eastworth Rd, Chertsey, Surrey.

++ Radio Cavendish: I'm now going to do the impossible and explain the Eastbourne radio scene in a few sentences, to straighten out the absolute MESS of contributions that arrive re. this station! Cavendish broadcast on SW with their own programmes only, sometimes on FM under the Cavendish name, and sometimes on Echo Charlie as RC 1. Their DJ can also be heard under a different name on another FM station in Eastbourne. The other Eastbourne station does the Zeta/Rastafari relays, and calls himself RL 1 on Echo Charlie... I think! If this isn't true, let me know! Rastafari were heard again on 6255 from 1300 on October 31 - their address is Postbus 162, Bemmel, Netherlands. Cavendish can be contacted via 224 Sevenoaks Road, Eastbourne.

++ Radio Northsea: made their first test on 6235 on Sept 19 with a good signal. Postbus 50, Oude Pekela, Netherlands will get to them.

++ Radio Hexagon: Mike Hayes, Steve Most, Linda, Su Ringe, Mike Bishop, John York and Peter Hayfield are the latest DJs to be heard on Hexagon. Hexagon's promotional material may be changed slightly soon, at the whim of yours truly (not because I'm Mike Hayes, but because I design the stuff!). Write in c/o SPECTRUM.

++ Radio Europa: modulation is always very low on this station, surprising, considering the amount of signal Atlanta used to put out when they used this rig. Europa's programmes are quite professional - I await the day when they come here through the hiss and noise with a SINPO of 55555! Write to the FBM.

++ Atlantis SW: after testing on 6255 on Sept 19 (with a good signal, despite the low power), ASW decided to spoil all chances of a broadcast by dropping the transmitter. However, unabated, they got Alpha 2 to put out the programmes for them on 6260 on October 3. It now looks as if they will be re-broadcasting the programmes on November 7, just outside our print deadline. 39C Carrisbrooke Rd, St. Leonard's on Sea, Sussex will reach them.

++ Radio Pluto: last broadcast on 7350 on September 19 from a field with just a tape recorder and a microphone - the programmes were unprofessional, but better than some I've heard done in a studio! To find out the novelty location this time, write to 147 Mackie Ave, Brighton, Sussex is their address.

++ Britain Radio: the twice-yearly changing of Pete Lord and Chris Johnston comes into effect as from October. BRI made a special 5th Sunday broadcast on October 31. Their address is c/o SPECTRUM.

++ Radio Woodstock/Radio Linda: this multi-named station, which was also going to use the name if Radio Wave Express earlier this year, has been heard on 6840 recently with a Scottish presenter - I presume Linda is the same as Woodstock, as they use the same frequency, same address and share the same presenter! PO Box 16, Falkirk will probably solve the mystery of this station.

++ Free Radio Service - Holland: didn't appear on Sept 19 due to PTT activity, but came on the following week. Also heard on 3rd Sunday in October, and on the 5th Sunday they were relaying EMR and GBN. FRS use the FRS address!
++ European Music Radio: will definitely make their last broadcast via FRSH in May 1983. No address.

++ Radio Kristel: next broadcast will be in December (26th). They can be reached care of 26 The High Street, Merstham, Surrey.

++ Radio Atlantique 2000: keeping up the two line items, they were heard on 7340 on October 17. 75 Rue Julian Grimaud, Drancy, France is their QTH.

++ Radio Vomit Int: despite their somewhat "unconventional" name, and Dutch 180m-style programmes, Vomit (who may or may not come from Germany) are quite good! They were heard on 7350 on October 17 with music programming, all held together by the announcer's good sense of humour and the punk records, plus "borrowed music from FRSH" when their turntable broke! Unfortunately we know of no address for them, even after their QSO with WBI - anyone got his real address and willing to pass it on?

++ Hotel Amigo: now on with a new frequency of 7350 after several tests on 41m. Their usual network style programme was heard on October 24, with Radio Concorde (c/o FRS), Titanic (c/o FRS) and a new German station, Radio Sunday (c/o Hotel Amigo's address). Reports, plus cassettes of reception on that date should be sent to Postbus 113, Damwoude, Netherlands.

++ UKGM: recent tests have been on 6220 (October 17), and 6310 (October 24, signing off at 0830 GMT!). They seem to have changed their address; they used to use 13 The Chase (?), but now are contactable c/o SPECTRUM.

++ Weekend Music Radio: more music programming heard on 6240 on October 24. (These items are definitely getting shorter!) Their address is 42 Arran Close, Cambridge.

++ Radio Poacher: back after a short absence on 7375 (plus spurs) on October 24. Surprisingly, this transmitter was built by the same person who did Apollo's, I think! The address is 8 Hazelwood Ave, Brichwood, Lincoln.

++ The Radio Foundation: has Tom de Wit turned Bloemendaal, we ask? This station has been heard on 6255 at various times relaying Radio Bloemendaal programmes (legal religious Dutch station) and announcing an address of Vijverweg 8, Bloemendaal, Netherlands. One bit of proof is that although that is the correct spelling of the street name, the announcer spells it the Belgian way (with a y instead of ij)...

++ Radio Whalefish Bay/Waalwijsbai: Whalefish Bay looked wrong, so we tracked down someone with a recent copy of FRM and got them to find out what it was. It turned out that he couldn't find it, but thought it was spelt something like the second one! Either way, it was heard on 7340 on October 31 with a Dutch announcer saying that if people didn't send in programmes for him, he wouldn't be back on SW! They use the same address that HA started off with, Postbus 201, 9100 AE Dokkum, Netherlands.

++ Radio Gemini: 10 years old on October 31. 10 Apsley Grange, London Rd, Apsley, Herts. Well worth listening to!

++ Skyport Radio: have been testing on 7400 recently with a far better signal than they ever managed on 48m. 46 Shaftesbury Ave, Feltham, Middx will get to them.

++ Radio Jan Rap: "The Power station" Jan Rap - back after all these years! Quite a nice surprise to hear him again - he tested shortly on 7290 on Oct 31 but gave no indication as to when regular programmes would resume. Postbus 12, Gasselternijveen, Neth will reach him (yes, I can still spell it!).

++ Sunrise Radio: from Scandinavia is now back with higher power than before (exact amount unknown) with regular 1st Friday and 1st Sunday transmissions on 11416kHz. FRS address.

++ KLA Radio: this station transmits roughly twice a month, and has been doing so for quite a while now, but no one knew about them! Recent freqs have been 6534 and 6750kHz, and they use 27 watts. The address is 35 Fair Oak Lane, Chessington, Surrey, and programmes usually start at 0930 GMT. Their signal is quite good, and they are using the old United Radio Europe transmitter. DJ's heard have been Troy Tempest and Comrade Turner; Yvonne answers the mail!

++ Radio 49: STOP PRESS! Steve Most has bought some new crystals for 6215 to 6250 for his new transmitter!!!!!!!!!!!!

USA

No USA spot proper this month, as we haven't heard from Scott due to postal delays, but we can tell you that Radio Apollo hopes to test to the States, as does the Voice of the Leek. Weekend Music Radio have announced dates for their 6260 0500-0800 tests as being 21.11.82, 5.12.82, 19.12.82, 2.1.83, 6.2.83, 20.2.83 and 6.3.83, with 6235 in parallel in December. Other stations plan to test, including Britain Radio. A & S has some printed sheets available for stations planning to test, in case they need a bit of advice. Just send sae or ask for one to be sent with your sub.

Also, we hear that lots of US relays will shortly be infiltrating in to good old blighty - KQSB International is the only one we know of so far - it will be going out in the next Radio Avalanche broadcast.



**SUNDAY-ENTERTAINMENT ON SW.
"JUST A BIT DIFFERENT....."**

Once again, A+S
extends its
apologies for its
late bouts of
non-appearance!

Next deadline:
December 1.

Stuart

Yet another week's
delay due to GPO
"help"!

Radio Walvissbai:
apparently the
correct spelling.
Relayed Radio Diana
and Confusion on
7.11.

Radio Stella back
on 7375.

WORLD FREE RADIO
AND TV HANDBOOK,
published soon by
FRJ. More details
in next A & S or
from 7 Holly Park
Road, Hanwell, London.

Radio Mi Amigo from
Holland testing on
6225 in afternoons.
Postbus 2653, Enschede,
NL replaces Hengelo
QTH announced earlier.

**BRITAIN
RADIO
48 METRE BAND
S.W.
SUNDAY
MORNINGS
INTERNATIONAL**

SPECTRUM MW AND FM NEWS

WITH AIRSOUNDS SHORT-WAVE MAGAZINE

ADDRESS: Steve West, 21 Victoria Rd, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3NF

ISSUE 9

5p

NOV '82

The Yes-It's-His-Fault-Again Column

Once again it is my duty to apologise for the feeble attempts of that moron in front. No doubt many of you have noticed that we're running slightly late, if a month can be called 'slightly'. This has been caused, unfortunately, by the printer (yes, HMK) insisting on going on holiday at this time, sending the Spectrum info late, and generally getting everything behind schedule. Still, the good news is that we'll be making up for all this in the special bumper January issue that will be appearing after we have recovered from the christmas festivities: articles on MW and FM stations, D.I.Y articles on how you can build an FM antenna amplifier and a MW loop antenna, hopefully a special offer of a 4W FM tx, a special cassette offer and lots more interesting things which you never find in Airsounds. Finally, one piece of grovelling on my part: apologies to everyone who has been sending me letters, info etc for not having replied but I have been rather busy getting myself a job and things have been delayed a bit. Anyway, in this issue: MW and FM news, Free Radio in Belgium, Feedback, Irish Update, a quick look at one or two of the not-so-well-known stations, and anything else that we can fit in.

FM
XXXXXXXXXX

Nicholas Sharpe sent us a short article on the Belgian situation which we were unable to print last month due to you-know-who. This is intended as an update to the article that we ran in issue 5.

"First of all, free radio is technically illegal in the eyes of the authorities, although some guidelines have been introduced by the government on the subject. However there is also a political side to radio broadcasting in Belgium which is that the government favours the French-speaking stations as opposed to the Flemish ones which are more likely to be raided by either the police or post office.

Most of the free radio stations can be found operating on the FM band between 100 and 104MHz broadcasting mainly in mono although there are a few which transmit in stereo. In general, most of the stations play a mixture of Dutch, English and French records although there are some minority stations that play music from other parts of the world. Programme standards are very good in most cases and formats range from Top 40, disco, jazz etc. The only problem is with the modulation which tends to be overdone by many of them. Transmitter power varies from very low up to as much as 12kW for some of the professional stations. Broadcasts can last from as little as a couple of hours a week up to twenty-four hours a day. During early morning, most stations revert to playing continuous music with the occasional jingle, though most tend to identify themselves regularly during each hour.

The up-to-date position as regards free radio is as follows: the P.T.T will take action only against stations using over 50W. The police on the other hand, take action against all stations while the government will take action only if the station is using over 100W. (Confused? SW.). There is no decision as yet as to what is illegal whether it is 1 or 10000W. The authorities are also very hot on the so-called networks since they do not like stations in -say- Brussel and Antwerp having another station in another part of the country relaying their programmes. This situation occurs mainly on the coast and a considerable amount of raids have taken place against these stations with the result that there are hardly any network stations left on the air.

There are still rumours going around that the government is talking about setting up a number of stations in the bigger cities but as yet no decisions have been made although it is certain that the French-speaking part of the country will get their stations legalised first before the Dutch."

If you would like to do a short article on some free radio subject (preferably MW or FM), why not send it in to Spectrum. Each article must be about 1-2 page long or 500 words and if quoting any facts or figures please make sure that they are as correct as possible as we don't want to spend the next issue explaining any mistakes.

Ed.

Radio Star (Birm'ham, 94.2MHz, Sun 9pm-1am) appeared in court on 23/9 in Birmingham. The result was a £150 fine plus £30 costs, although an additional charge of stealing electricity was dropped. One reel-to-reel tape recorder was returned. At present they are applying for a licence to broadcast legally - they already have a 10,000 signature petition calling for the station to be legalised - and until then will continue under the name Rebel Radio or Frontline Radio on 94.2. Format is reggae and black music.

Gamma Radio made its first official broadcast to London on 92.5MHz on 23/9 from 2100-2200 with a hard rock format. A test was done between 2015 and 2100 with plain carrier and some music, during which time another station (SLK?) came on over the signal playing a number of disco records. Address: 135 SE14 5DJ, London.

Surrey Sounds made a broadcast on 25/9 from 1600-1815 with a mixed format. See issue 8 for details. 32 Victoria Rd, Salisbury, Wilts.

Thameside Radio did a Friday broadcast starting at 2000 on 8/10 finishing early Saturday morning.

Cambridge Community Radio have had a few raid problems recently: they have been raided almost every week during their Sunday transmissions from 1900-2100 and have now decided to come on irregularly each week between 1900 and 2100. Programmes are described as laughably political but lacking a mixer and with large gaps between records.

Esbjerg Music Radio (Denmark) have now got a new 5W FM tx. Grill Radio is a new station from Copenhagen on 102MHz that can be heard in parts of Sweden. They transmit each Tuesday from 8pm and the Danish PTT have tried to raid them a number of times without success and they have been given a considerable amount of press coverage.

London Weekend TV have made a programme on pirate radio to be broadcast during the second week in November. The idea is to beat the programme made by Channel 4 by a few days (Ch4 prog will be on Nov 15th). During filming, they visited Radio Invicta and another in Birmingham to give an example of specialist broadcasting. Radio Jackie was left out: "They sound just like Capital Radio" said a LWT spokesman.

Parkside Radio (SW London, 89.9MHz, Sundays) has been off the air for the past month due to a blown tx, although they hope to be back shortly. South West Radio - formerly Radio 23 - was heard on 28/9 with a weak signal, possibly trying out a new schedule. 103.8MHz.

The Home Office were out on 26/9, raiding - or at least attempting to raid - all the FM stations on after 2000. Fortunately, all switched off when this was known, though it is thought that JFM still lost their tx.

A new station on FM in London is The Sound Of Rock (TSOR) with RFL's Nigel Grant on Saturdays 2200-2300, although tests are planned for weekdays. Address: 5 Mercury Court, London SE9.

Electronic Sound Transmission in Birmingham were raided on 10/10. This was only a week after they had returned to the air following a previous raid, although this one took place only a few minutes from the end of their 1100-1500 transmission. When the staff saw the H.O leaving the block with the equipment, they went up to them and demanded it back, claiming that it belonged to friends. When nothing happened, one of them went up to one of the H.O and removed a rather expensive pen from his pocket. The person concerned dropped the aerial that he was carrying and grabbed the pen back at which point one of the staff took the aerial. EST were back on 17/10 using a borrowed tx but with their own aerial.

Radio Aquarius has split from South London Radio. Although the presentation isn't up to much they do a good info sheet from 15 BR4 QY, West Wickham, Kent. Incidentally they were heard on 20/9 on 92.5MHz with a slight problem: the tape kept sticking, resulting in records being heard for about 30 seconds every minute. They were also given a mention the same evening by Radio Alpha as their 'Wally Of The Week!'.
FOCUS ON.....RADIO ANDROMEDA

As a little extra to the FM News, and because we've just got the info in, we're taking a short look at this station which broadcasts to the Manchester area every other Wednesday from 2000-2100.

Following the demise of Radio Aquarius in Manchester back in the mid-seventies, some former members of that station decided to form a new station concentrating more on the community radio side of broadcasting. A frequency of 88MHz was chosen and a

Focus (cont.)

2W FM tx built. The area of coverage was limited to Tameside, with some reports being received from as far away as Wigan. Now they have increased power to 1W, this being fed into a 4-element beam antenna that enables them to be heard as far away as Liverpool! At present, the format consists mainly of music not normally heard on official stations as well as poetry sent in, community news and a 15-20 minute free radio news spot giving news about free stations that can be heard in the area (ie: Irish, B'ham etc.). Most of the music played is album-type. Since its beginning the station has never been raided, although they think that they may have had a few close escapes. Should you want further information, write to their mailing address: 26 Brown St, Manchester 2.

The mysterious Southern European Broadcasting Service mentioned in last month's issue has been identified: Ian Kelly writes, "The SEBS is a US military station operating in Italy. It broadcasts on 108.0MHz (Vicenza: 250W) and 106.0MHz (Aviano, Geta, Livorno, M.Virgine, Rimini, Sigonella and Verona: 50W, Naples: 250W) plus three other txs. They also have a second programme on 107.0MHz from Aviano and San Vito (50W) plus others. All the 107MHz stations are stereo and fully automated. Address: APO, New York, NY 09221, USA.

EXTRA

And now, some special news for all our readers: As you will probably have read in Airsounds, we will be merging with FRS News of Reading starting with the bumper Xmas issue in January. Chris Colby from that mag will be joining Spectrum as sub-editor and we hope to begin a few new series about free radio topics at that time. The FRS address will remain open, so info etc can be sent there if you want. Unfortunately, the price of the mag will have to go up due to the cost of Stuart's holiday in Wales but we think it is still good value for Britain's number one free radio mag. More details should appear in A&S 10.

MW News

First of all, some news concerning raids in Leicester: Radios Veronica, Nova and King were raided on 26/9 by GPO and all stations closed. On Monday however, during an interview on Centre Radio, a Nova DJ said that many people had come forward to help and that they would be back on 3/10. There was no announcement about Veronica who share frequencies with Nova on 1323kHz (Veronica 0900-1700, Nova 1700-2400), and it seems that Radio King might be off the air for some time. Nova did not reappear on 3/10.

Radio Freedom were visited by someone claiming to be from Nova Leics at about 2200 on 3/10 - they are trying to find out if it really was him. Unfortunately, the H.O have found out where they are transmitting from and apparently have the house under 24hr watch, however Freedom has still gone out on 242m/1241kHz for the last three weeks from 1500-2400 with 900W!

Mazzy dropped us a line -amongst other things- to tell us that she has heard a Roy Masters broadcast, although she did not say where and when: "With regards to the Roy Masters broadcasters, I too heard one of these. At the time I "was told" that they were going out most weekday evenings 7-8pm. I "was told" that a Jackie engineer (complete hearsay of course) was behind it, but also that County Radio were featuring programmes from about 12-1pm as part of their normal broadcasts although I never heard R.M on the station so I don't know if that's true." Any answers? Lew County address is 42 Northgate Rd, Croydon. SW.

Reports have reached me that Southern Radio has not been heard in London for some time on 1415kHz, although Radio Kristel says that they go out Sundays 1100-1800 on that frequency. Try writing to 26 High St, Mersham, Redhill RH1 3BA.

FOCUS ON.....RADIO AMANDA

During a look at the free radio list from Free The Airwaves, I happened to notice a couple of stations that I had never heard of before: Radio Amanda and Amanda FM. There then followed a few weeks of frantic phoning before a mysterious white envelope popped through the door and solved the problem.

Radio Amanda transmits on 214m/1404kHz from 1200-1500 each Sunday. The format is Rock music

RADIO AMANDA

Focus On...(cont.)

although occasionally they broadcast an 'Oldies Hour' consisting of 1960s and early 1970s bands. DJs on the station are Tony Phillips, John Shakespeare and Rob the Dog in that order.

The MW transmitter power is about 25 watts, powered by five twelve-volt car batteries, and is fed into a $\frac{1}{4}$ -wave horizontal copper wire aerial strung between two large trees. The earth system consists of six copper rods linked with crocodile clips. Programmes are pre-recorded on cassettes in the studio and then played back at the North London site.

The original Radio Amanda started in the summer of 1981 broadcasting live programmes. Unfortunately, due to an unprecedented number of technical problems, they decided to close down and re-plan the station. Amanda returned in June 1982 on its present frequency of 1404kHz/214m, although original plans for an FM service Amanda FM have been dropped.

Interesting Bits

This month's IB section starts with the news that the days of Belgian free radio may be numbered: Until now, stations have been almost untouched thanks to the rather uncertain laws dealing with that sort of thing. However, news has reached us that the Belgian government are planning a new offensive against the pirates: they plan to legalise them! The idea behind this is that legalisation will prove too expensive for the majority of stations and they would then close down, never to return. The proposals are these: 1/ The maximum ERP must not exceed 100W. 2/ Each station must broadcast in the language of the area that it serves. 3/ Each station wanting to broadcast must get a licence lasting for two years which will cost about Fr.500,000! 4/ Transmission equipment would be checked and if unsatisfactory the station would be closed. 5/ Each station would be limited to a frequency between 100 and 104MHz. 6/ No commercials would be allowed.

In some ways, these proposals are similar to those currently in force in France, although it is thought that the government would bring in a new law with heavy fines for those who broke it and stayed on illegally. Your views on this would be welcome, you know the address. (Please mark envelopes Interesting Bits).

Yet another episode in the Howard Rose saga has broken wind: following his leaving Top Shop, he has gone to Metro Radio in Newcastle where he works in advertising. Sources say that he is hoping to pay back some of the money that he owes to certain people although none has yet been received. For those of you wondering what he has done to deserve this place of honour, here is a short history: Crispian StJohn (Howard) began his infamous career back in the sixties with the Free Radio Newsletter which ran for about six months before vanishing with a number of annual subscriptions still outstanding. This happened again in the early seventies with 'Radio' magazine, after which he became more adventurous: offshore radio was booming again, with Caroline and RNI at sea, and CSJ performed a trick that he repeated a number of times during the decade: he claimed to be starting an offshore station based on some ship or port and asked people to send him money toward it. Such stations were Scan Radio, Radio Carolina, Radio England, Radio 272 and Radio 252, the earliest being 1971 and the latest 1982 (Radio England). Even so, this did not stop him from publishing more magazines, and Radio File (1979) and Radio News International (1982) followed, disappearing with outstanding subscriptions. Then, earlier this year, he left home, and the rest you know.

News of a couple of new stations has reached me: Radio City transmits to Gravesend each Sunday on 90.2MHz FM from 1400-1800 with soft rock music and 50W. Civic Radio can be heard across London on 90.4MHz each Tuesday (1800-2200) with a rock/disco format. Power is 35W into a 3-element beam antenna.

Does anybody know what has happened to the Stevenage station Lewtown Radio on 90.6 MHz Sundays 1100-1900? Or the North Herts station Radio Fiona on 192m? Harvey Foster is getting bored and I'm interested.

Britain's first ever National Free Radio Conference is on 6/11 in Cambridge. Full report next month, also: what Stuart Hardy RHALLX looks like!

RADIO AMANDA**214 mw (1404 khz)***Broadcasting To London, Essex & Herts.***46, MORLEY AVENUE,
WOOD GREEN, LONDON. N22 6NG**

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Radio Zodiac's Roger Vosene has left London for Radio Nova in Italy. He will be working on the station for at least a month. We have, however heard that he is somewhat homesick and would appreciate letters sent to him c/o RNI, 18012 Seborga, Imperia, Italy. In the meantime, Zodiac has closed down pending a move to Thursday night transmissions.

Sunshine Radio has just been joined by Frank Ryan. He used to be on Telstar Community Radio at the same time as Howard Rose who swindled £2000 out of the station before jumping bail and escaping back to Britain.

Radio Del Mare may be going legal. Johann Van Nee has apparently been given a licence by a European country to transmit on MW and SW with no limit on power. He claims to have the backing of two multinational companies and expects to broadcast in English, German and French. Although the name of the country has not been given, I have been told that it must be Germany, although I take no responsibility for inaccuracies. I wait in eager anticipation.

I have now heard that County Radio have changed their address to 49 High St, Wimbledon Common, Surrey, despite what I said a few pages back. Any more addresses?

Some light has been shed upon the workings of Swiss FM stations by Radio Saturn manager Christian Steinegger: it seems that most stations use a C90 cassette and transmit for about 1½ hours at a time, too short for the PTT to get them. Some stations, however broadcast for anything up to twelve hours by taking their equipment up the side of one of the mountains from where they can keep a lookout for the PTT who, in order to raid them, must spend a considerable time climbing up the same mountain. I understand that a similar method is being used by certain stations here in the UK.

UPDATE

This month's Update section is mainly concerned with Ireland and is intended to be read in conjunction with the articles we printed on Ireland a few issues back.

Artane Community Radio is a new station using 10W, although no-one seems to know what frequency it's on, where it is or when it transmits. Any answers?

Radio Nova have changed frequency, and caused a number of complaints from certain people in Scotland, who are now unable to receive the station on portable radios. At the same time, we have heard that they are planning to buy out Eastside Radio and start Radio Nova South. They have also been heard testing a new FM outlet on 102.7MHz. Starting a radio station is big business: Nova are offering to set up stations for £50-60,000, which includes studio, tx, aerials and DJs.

Radio Sunshine's FM service may be forced off the air by Portmarnock residents who are getting an injunction against the station for causing TVI.

ARD has closed: although plans were made in September to restart it properly they closed later in the month. Their FM tx is now for sale at £200. Sorry, their FM aerial is for sale (should have read it better).

Capital Radio in Dublin has closed temporarily due to lack of money. The ops are now deciding on whether or not to spend more money on it to make it viable or not, so there is a possibility of it returning.

Rumours are circulating about KELO which closed earlier this year: there may be a return on 244m with 5kW and on FM with 3kW, although nothing official has been heard.

ADVERTISE ++++++

WANTED DESPERATELY: Tapes of Radio Caroline, Atlanta, 390, London, 270, etc etc. Also any old free radio mags. Details to 64 Swan Meadow, Pewsey, Wilts.

WANTED: LP "The Best Of Earth & Fire", Kayak "Kayak" and single "Judy In Disguise" by Silicon Teens. Steve West.

+-----+ FEEDBACK

Feedback seems to be turning into one of those readers letters columns that can be seen in most national papers:-

Mazzy writes: "Yesterday, Margaret, Nina and I went to the Caroline Movement meeting and then on to the Uptown 'Meet the listeners' meeting. The whole thing proved quite fun and poor old Terry Anderson finally got the water pistolling due to him, as did rather a lot of people who came within aiming distance of us." Thank goodness you don't live nearer here. SM.

"It's certainly very nice to see so many listeners (???) contributing to your mag.

Feedback (cont.)

I wonder if it might be a good idea to print everybody's name in full rather than just a credit name." Nicholas Sharpe. Are you kidding? Not with the space that Stuart gives me. Seriously though, space is limited and is usually filled with station news before we think about the credits. Besides, people would rather read about stations than see their name in print. SW.

LATE NEWS.

Radio Freedom had a close shave on 24/10 when the H.O located the station at about 1640 GMT. They were forced to close down until the H.O personnel standing outside the house disappeared, then continued broadcasting from 1800-2100.

London Weekend TV have postponed their programme on pirate radio due to be shown on 5/11 without giving a reason. Meanwhile, Channel 4 have also postponed THEIR programme, although this was because of changes in schedules and a need to re-film some parts. It is thought that LWT, who rushed out their pirate programme to beat the CH4 one, are using the time to re-make theirs. I do not know when LWT will show it, but since CH4 have said that their programme will appear in January, the LWT one may come on at the same time.

SLR op goes mad! (Although we've all known it for a long time). John Dawson, SLR op, went mad just before SLR's last broadcast and threw a radio off a tower block in south London. It appears that he blamed it for the station being unable to come on that week. Since then, SLR has not appeared, although the exact reason for this is not clear.

LNR had a number of technical problems on 6/11, resulting in their being two hours late on air: it seems that some-one or something de-tuned a part of the tx.

Ian Kelly has sent me three pages of FM loggings which he obtained in early September. Unfortunately, due to lack of space, I am unable to print all of them here (although Stuart has dared me to) but I will mention a number of the belgian pirates that he heard: 100.7MHz at 1000GMT, Radio Kompas from Ostend with Deodato's Happy Hour. 102.5MHz at 1051, Radio Carina from Ichtegem with vintage soul music. 103.5MHz, 0559 (4/9), Radio Maeva from Brussels. 104MHz, 0716 (4/9), Radio Mellinda from Brugge with an id and pop music. Ian also said I also logged at least another 20 pirates, but they were all unids. Seems like the most played records on the pirates were Steve Miller's 'Abracadabra' and Rough Mix's 'Wonder Dog', or should that be Wonder Dog's 'Rough Mix'. Don't forget, send in any interesting MW/FM loggings as well the method you used to get them. Have YOU any special way of improving reception? If so, let us know at the usual address and we'll print them in a special section on DX tips in our January issue, which incidentally will be issue 1 of Aircspec News - the name that the mag will be known as from then on although Spectrum will remain semi-separate as usual. Also, how about letting us know about your favourite station. If we get enough requests (and info) we'll print a feature on it in that issue. Also included will be features on making a MW loop aerial and an FM/AM aerial amplifier. Issue 1 of Aircspec News will appear mid-january. Not to be missed! (Note to Stuart: I'll be needing an extra six pages at least.).

Regret no H.O picture this month due to space, but possibly one of Gotts himself next month.

For Sale: SW Rigs!!!! Self-oscillating 807 valve rigs built to order. Output about 10W. Box T4, Spectrum for details. Please enclose IRC or SAE.

For Sale: Large MW tx. 4KW output with power supply. Suit Irish station or small offshore operation. Photos possible. Send SAE or IRC to Box TX1, Spectrum. Serious offers only please.

WANTED: Copy of Part 1 of the Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy broadcast 1/11/78 on BBC. NOT the TV prog. I've got the rest but not that one. Steve West.

And finally: Thanks to everyone for their contributions. Mazzy (who?), Dave, Nicholas, John, Philip, Nigel Watkinson, Ian Kelly, Ken, Andrew, Robert, Laurence, Charles, Chris, Paul, Bjarke, Gary, Andy Hewkin, Stuart (he doesn't look like that, surely?) Hardy, the mob that turned up at Cambridge and everybody that I have forgotten/not included/not bothered with.

Don't forget contributions for Issue 1 of ASN. Try to get them in before Christmas. Ta.